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Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

Attorneys for Complainant

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. VN-2009-71

ICYLON A. GUCE a.k.a., ICYLON ANDAL GUCE

8334 Telegraph Road Downey, CA 90240

Vocational Nurse License No. VN 222099

Respondent.

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ACCUSATION

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

- 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2. On or about August 3, 2006, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) issued Vocational Nurse License No. VN 222099 to Icylon A. Guce also known as, Icylon Andal Guce (Respondent). The Vocational Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2014, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 118, subdivision (b) provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Bureau jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under section 2892.1 of the Code, the Bureau may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.
- 5. Section 2875 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline the holder of a vocational nurse license for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2875) of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 6. Section 2861 states that no person may "in any way assume to practice as a licensed vocational nurse" unless they are properly licensed under the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, 2840, et seq.).
 - 7. Section 2878 states, in pertinent part:

"The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under [the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following:

"(d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter."

"(f) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensed vocational nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction."

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"(h) Impersonating another practitioner, misrepresenting professional credentials or licensure status, or permitting another person to use his or her certificate or license."

The commission of any act involving dishonesty, when that action is related to the duties and functions of the licensee."

"It is unlawful for any person or persons not licensed as provided in this chapter to impersonate in any manner or pretend to be a licensed vocational nurse, or to use the title "Licensed Vocational Nurse," the letters "L.V.N.," or any other name, word or symbol in connection with or following his name so as to lead another or others to believe that he is a licensed vocational nurse."

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2521, states:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the Business and Professions Code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a licensed vocational nurse to perform the functions authorized by his license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare."

COST RECOVERY

Section 125.3 states, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of a Substantially Related Crime)

- 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2878, subdivision (f), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2521, in that Respondent has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse ("LVN"). On or about May 10, 2011, in the criminal proceeding entitled *United States of America v. Icylon Guce* (U.S. Dist. Ct. C.D.C., 2011, No. 2:09CR-609), Respondent entered a plea of guilty and was convicted of one felony count of violating United States Code, title 18, section 1347 [health care fraud]). The Court placed Respondent on 3 years probation and ordered him to pay \$20,980.64 in restitution. The circumstances surrounding the conviction are as follows:
- a. Respondent participated in a scheme to defraud the Medi-Cal health care benefit program. The scheme involved the use of unlicensed persons to provide vocational nursing services to Medi-Cal recipients. Respondent participated in the scheme prior to the time that he was licensed as a vocational nurse by: (1) falsely presenting himself to patients as an LVN; (2) performing the services of an LVN; (3) fraudulently signing nursing notes as an LVN; and (4) and conspiring to submit fraudulent Medi-Cal claims related to LVN services that had not been provided by an LVN.
- b. Specifically, in April 2006, while employed at Excel Plus Home Health Services, Respondent presented himself to patient A.C. as a licensed vocational nurse, provided services to patient A.C. that should have been performed by a licensed vocational nurse, signed related Nursing Notes with the title "LVN" next to his name, and caused a claim for payment for said services to be made to Medi-Cal.
- c. Respondent was involved in the above-described scheme to defraud Medi-Cal for at least the six (6) months preceding his licensure in August 2006, and his involvement also included representations and Medi-Cal claims that were made with respect to services that Respondent unlawfully provided to other patients, including patient M.C., patient D.C., patient J.B. and patient M.S.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unlicensed Practice)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2878, subdivision (d), in conjunction with section 2861, in that Respondent violated the Vocational Nursing Practice Act by performing the services of an LVN without proper licensure. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above, in paragraph 11, subparagraphs (a) – (c), as though set forth fully herein.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Misrepresenting Professional Credentials/License Status)

13. Respondent is subject to discipline under sections 2878, subdivision (h), in conjunction with section 2885, in that between February 2006 and August 2, 2006, while employed as a vocational nurse at Excel Plus Home Health Services, Respondent misrepresented his professional credentials or licenses status and acted in the capacity of a Licensed Vocational Nurse, without a valid license. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above, in paragraph 11, subparagraphs (a) – (c), as though set forth fully herein.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Acts Involving Dishonesty)

14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2878, subdivision (j), in that Respondent committed acts involving dishonesty related to the functions and duties of a licensed vocational nurse. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates, the allegations set forth above, in paragraph 11, subparagraphs (a) - (c), as though set forth fully herein.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Vocational Nurse License No. VN 222099, issued to Respondent;

1	2. Ordering Respondent to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and											
2	enforcement of this case, pursuant to section 125.3; and											
3	3.	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.										
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5	DATED: _						TERESA BE	ELLO-JO	ONES, J.D.	, M.S.N., R.N	١.	
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